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FAX TRANSMISSION March 5, 2007

TO: Mail Stop: AMENDMENT  
Examiner: T.M. Dove  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FROM: Douglas P. Mueller

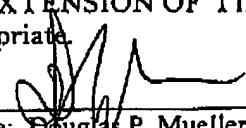
OUR REF: 10873.0711USD1

TELEPHONE: (612) 455.3800

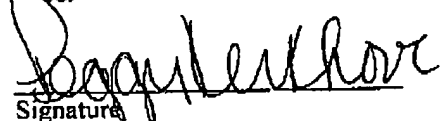
Total pages, including cover letter: 44

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If all pages are NOT received, please call us at 612.455.3800 or fax us at 612.455.3801.

Title of Document: Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 2 references, copy of  
European Search ReportApplicant: FUKUDA  
Serial No.: 10/712624  
App. Filed: November 13, 2003  
Group Art No.: 1745  
Confirmation No.: 2156Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-  
9478. Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient  
number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate.By:   
Name: Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark  
Office on the date shown below.

Peggy J. Kerkhove

  
SignatureMarch 5, 2007  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: FUKUDA, et al. Examiner: T. M. Dove  
Serial No.: 10/712,624 Group Art Unit: 1745  
Filed: November 13, 2003 Docket: 10873.0711USD1  
Title: ELECTRODE PLATE UNIT AND BATTERY

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d): I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 5, 2007.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Peggy Kerkhove

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. The references were recently cited in a European Search Report mailed February 13, 2007. A copy of the search report is enclosed. Copies of any foreign patent documents or "Other Documents" are enclosed.

US 4,622,277, JP 3-152881, JP 4-349369, EP 0 690 520, JP10-106536, JP 11-307128, which are cited in the search report, were previously cited by the Applicant in an IDS filed December 19, 2006.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97, this statement is being filed (CHECK ONE):

- ☒ (1) within three (3) months of the Filing Date, before the mailing date of a First Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing date of a First Office Action on the merits after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114; or
- ☐ (2) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, and
- ☐ the requisite Statement is below, OR
- ☐ the requisite fee of \$180.00 under Rule 1.17(p) is included herein, or
- ☐ (3) after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance but on or before the payment of the Issue Fee, AND
- ☐ the requisite Statement is below, AND

- ☐ the requisite fee of \$180.00 under Rule 1.17(p) is included herein.

### STATEMENT

As required under §1.97(e), Applicants hereby state either that:

- ☒ 1. Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of the Information Disclosure Statement; or
- ☐ 2. No item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☒ If this box is checked, Applicant provides the following:

#### Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

- ☐ The Examiner is hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. applications. A copy of each U.S. patent application publication (if published) or application (if not published) is enclosed.

Application No.

Filing Date

Group

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

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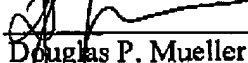
**FEE AUTHORIZATION**

Should any fee associated with the submission of this paper not be attached hereto as a check, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the missing fee to our Deposit Account, No. 50-3478. Any overpayments should be credited to said Deposit Account.

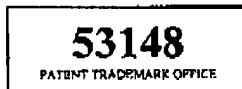
Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &  
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(612) 455-3800

Dated: March 5, 2007

By:   
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/pjk



MAR 05 2007

Date Mailed: March 5, 2007

Sheet 1 of 1

<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 10873.711USD1	Application Number: 10/712,624
	Applicant: FUKUDA, et al.	
	Filing Date: November 12, 2003	Group Art Unit: 1745

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,158,842	October, 1992	McHenry			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	0 955 682	November, 1999	EPO				
	0 750 590	November, 1993	EPO				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

**53148**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	

\*Substitute Disclosure Statement Form (PTO-1449)

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE